

## THE CAVE



At the age of forty Prophet Mohamed had the first encounter with Archangel Gabriel at the Cave Heraa in the outskirts of Mecca. The painting shows the light coming out of the cave. It also shows Mecca, the Kaaba, a caravan, tents with red banners, and the ragged mountains surrounding Mecca. The horizon is covered by one of Gabriel's wings.



READ



“Read in the Name of your Lord” (96:1)\*. These words were the first verse of the Quran.\*

\* From the Quran this represents “Sura number: Ayat number” in all paintings.

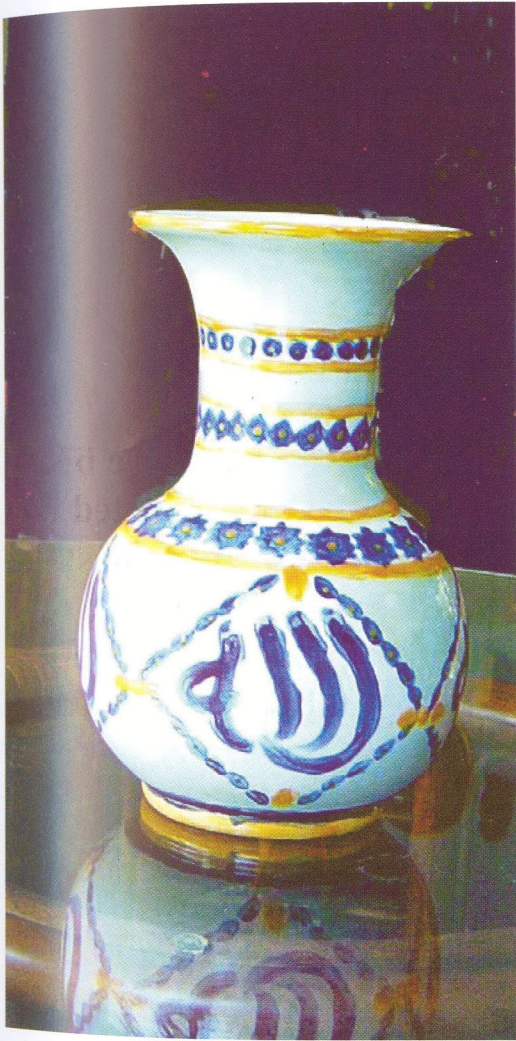
## THE PEN



“He is the One Who taught with the pen. He taught man what man did not know” (96:4-5). These are the fourth and fifth verses of the Quran revealed to Prophet Mohamed by Gabriel during their first encounter. Thus Islam emphasizes learning and has a great respect for knowledge.



## ALLAH'S NAME ON A VASE



The word Allah is written on this vase. It is repeated four times to be visible from every angle. The decorations are Islamic. The white color indicates purity, blue serenity, and gold majesty.



## ARABIC LANGUAGE

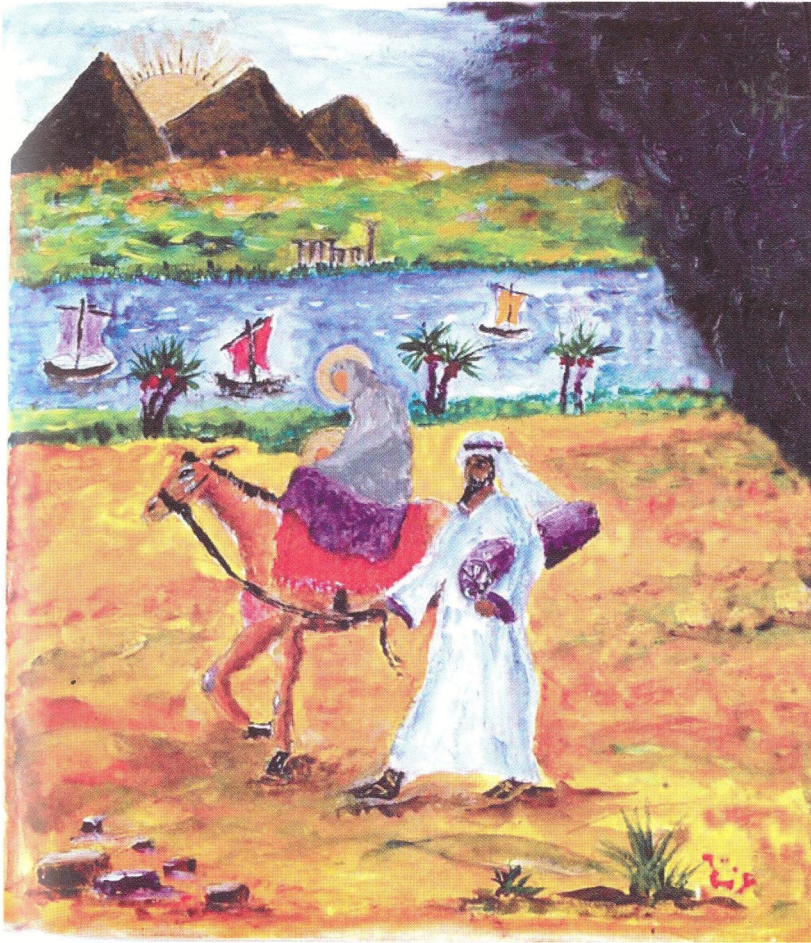


Islam, despite being sent to all peoples speaking different languages, made Arabic very special because it is the language of the Quran. The Quran in Arabic is the miracle of Prophet Mohamed to his people who considered themselves the authority and the custodians of the Arabic language. The Lord promised to preserve The Quran in Arabic and thus its language. (15:9, 12:2)

I was born in Egypt and Arabic was my mother-tongue. The first words I heard were in Arabic. The first words I uttered were in Arabic. The first words I wrote were in Arabic. The first song I admired was in Arabic. It is a language that is easy for those who love it. It is quite a rich and expressive language.



## JESUS & MARY TO EGYPT



Here Holy Mary is carrying Jesus (peace to him, pth) and guided by Joseph, escaping from Palestine to take shelter in Egypt. She was afraid that Jesus (pth) could be harmed (indicated by the black cloud on the North East). The birth of Jesus (pth) denoted a new era of light and truth (indicated by the shining sun between the pyramids). (19:27)